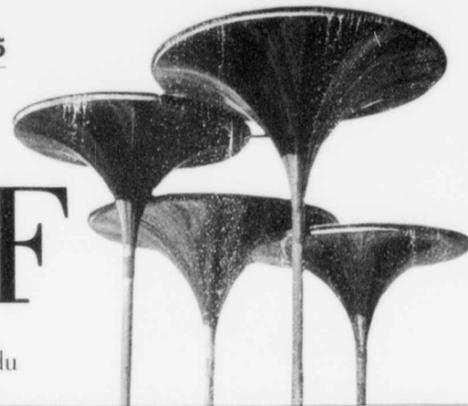


Wednesday, October 8, 2003

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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Today's News

STATE/NATIONAL NEWS

LINDEN — The beating of a black man who was left unconscious on an East Texas road is under investigation as a possible hate crime.

News Digest on page 4

ALBUQUERQUE — Three of 14 balloons remained aloft Tuesday morning in the America's Challenge gas balloon race, which was led by a German-American team floating over Texas.

News Digest on page 4

CHESTERTOWN, Md. — Carlton Dotson was to appear in court Tuesday to be served with an extradition warrant signed by Gov. Robert Ehrlich.

News Digest on page 4

OnCampus

KU considers ways to make dorms more safe

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The University of Kansas has had more accidental falls off residence halls than any other university in the Big 12 in recent years.

Eric Wellhausen, freshman, was the fifth KU student to fall from a residence hall in the past 10 years. In the same period, other Big 12 universities reported either one or no accidental falls from a residence hall.

Although four Big 12 universities have residence halls with ledges similar to those at KU halls, officials at those schools say no students had accidentally fallen off a ledge.

The ledges were a standard architectural feature for residence halls built in the 1960s, says Ken Stoner, director of the Department of Student Housing.

Wellhausen was standing on one of these ledges outside of his seventh-floor room when he fell to his death in early September. The death is causing the Department of Student Housing to consider ways to make residence halls safer.

— University Daily Kansan

Correction

On the Sept. 30 sports page, the TCU women's soccer player photographed was sophomore Elizabeth Walsh.

InsideSkiff

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The Weather

TODAY

High: 80; Low: 59;
Partly Cloudy

THURSDAY

High: 82; Low: 63;
Isolated T-Storms

FRIDAY

High: 80; Low: 61;
Partly Cloudy

LookingBack

1871 — The Great Fire of Chicago breaks out in a barn behind the cottage of Patrick O'Leary. The fire spread rapidly, eventually consuming a four-mile-long and two-third-mile-wide swath of Chicago. Two days later, nearly 300 people were dead, one hundred thousand were homeless, and Chicago's booming downtown was in ashes.

Staff Assembly recommends cuts

BY MEGHAN YOUKER
Staff Reporter

TCU employees whose dependents are not accepted to the university may still receive tuition benefits at community colleges if top administrators approve a recommendation made by the Staff Assembly Tuesday.

The proposal comes after the university's retirement, insurance and benefits committee recommended cutting benefits for temporary employees and tuition benefits for dependents.

The recommendation originally eliminated full tuition benefits to attend another Texas college or uni-

Tuition benefits still possible for dependents

versity for dependents who were not accepted to TCU.

The Staff Assembly's final recommendation to administrators stated students who are not accepted to TCU should be eligible to receive tuition benefits to attend Tarrant County College or their local community college for up to two years, and they may reapply

annually to TCU for admission.

Darron Turner, director of Student Development Services, said the cuts could directly affect him because he has two children who will be in college in a couple of years, but he understands why cuts need to be made.

"If you are going to go home and complain about something, at least you can complain with a home and with a job," Turner said.

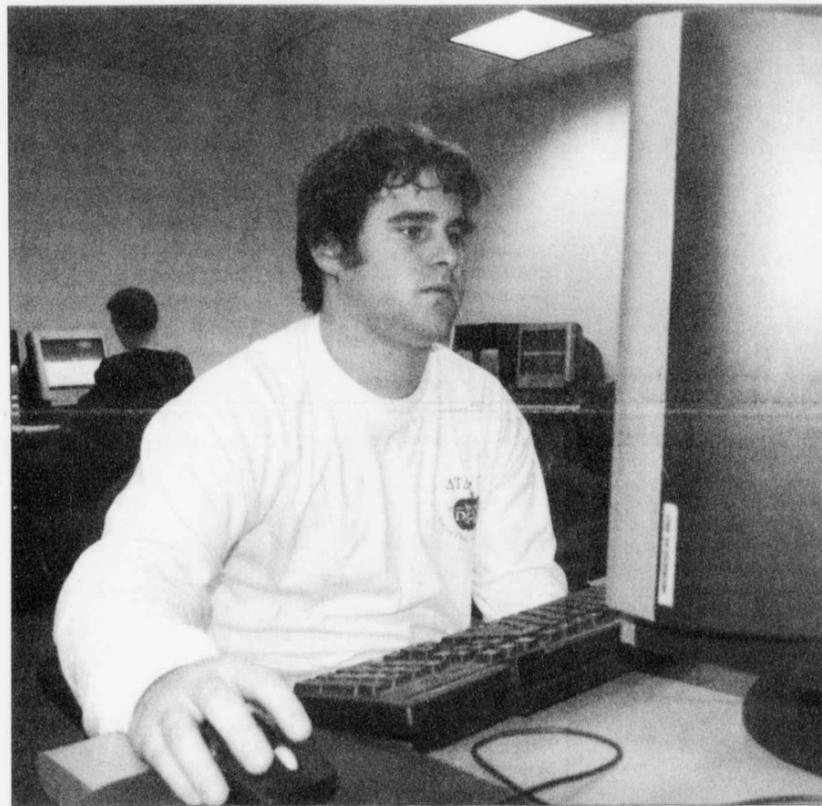
The committee, in a similar recommendation following its meeting Friday, said dependent students not accepted to TCU should

(more on EMPLOYEE, page 2)



Carol Campbell, vice chancellor for finance and business, explains TCU's expenditures to the Staff Assembly Tuesday afternoon.

BOOTED UP



William Adler, a sophomore business major, studies at a computer in the Mary Coats Burnett Library for a test. William has taken four tests in the past two weeks.

Stephen Spillman/Photo Editor

Hasta la vista Gov. Davis

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Californians banished Gov. Gray Davis just 11 months into his second term and elected action hero Arnold Schwarzenegger to replace him Tuesday — a Hollywood ending to one of the most extraordinary political melodramas in the nation's history.

Voters traded a career Democratic politician who became one of the state's most despised chief executives for a moderate Republican megastar who had never before run for office. Davis became the first California governor pried from office and only the second nationwide to be recalled.

Early tallies showed the recall favored by 1,019,874 voters, or 57.5 percent, and opposed by 755,375, or 42.6 percent.

Other early returns had Schwarzenegger ahead with 951,437 votes; Democratic Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante with 548,069; Republican state Sen. Tom McClintock with 225,799; and Green Party candidate Peter Camejo with 32,334.

"This is a great day for California. ... In response to a common danger, the people of California rose to their duties and ordered a new direction for our state," McClintock said in conceding.

Schwarzenegger prevailed despite a flurry of negative publicity in the campaign's final days, surviving allegations that he had groped women and accusations that as a young man he expressed admiration for Adolf Hitler.

The 56-year-old Austrian immigrant — husband of television journalist Maria Shriver — finds himself in charge of the nation's most populated state with an economy surpassed by only five countries.

Schwarzenegger promised to return the shine to a Golden State beset by massive budget problems and riven by deep political divisions.

Voters faced two questions — whether to recall Davis, and who among the other candidates should replace him if he was removed. They chose to get rid of the incumbent and put Schwarzenegger in his place.

(more on ELECTION, page 2)

Campus addresses diversity issues

BY MATT POTTER
Skiff Reporter

The fifth annual Conference on Inclusiveness tackled the topic of diversity in a straightforward manner Tuesday.

TCU's Council on Diversity and the Inclusiveness Task Force hosted the conference, which featured panel discussions on topics ranging from inclusiveness at

work together and have fun together."

Chancellor Victor Boschini started the day-long conference with opening remarks.

"The best part of the conference is that it sets up a forum where people can talk about these topics in a non-threatening environment," Boschini said. "With all the diversity we have on campus it's a way to find out that we have a lot more in common than not-in-common."

ITF President Kellen Correia said the conference was not about taking the nice road on topics such as diversity, Correia said.

"We want to get straight to the point, no flowery discussions about diversity," Correia said. "We want to be very blunt in what we're trying to do with this conference. The panelists are letting the students know what they have to do in order to be successful in life and the job market."

The conference schedule included a question and answer session with five guest speakers before lunch and a session about taking action around campus and the community after lunch.

The featured panelists were Lillie Biggins, vice president for

"The best part of the conference is that it sets up a forum where people can talk about these topics in a non-threatening environment."

— Victor Boschini
chancellor

TCU to increased awareness of diversity and social issues in the surrounding community.

ITF Vice President Ebony Russo said the conference's goal was to help people realize that they can get along, despite their differences.

"The conference isn't about getting everyone together to think and act the same," Russo said. "It's about getting people together to celebrate their differences and to realize that it's okay to be different. We can be different and still

(more on DIVERSITY, page 2)

SGA funds trip to convention

BY DANNY GILLHAM
Staff Reporter

Student Government Association unanimously passed a bill at Tuesday night's meeting to supply a portion of funds to send Alpha Epsilon Delta, an organization for pre-health students, to its national convention.

Jennifer Hawkins, president of TCU's chapter, said the university has 150 members and will attempt to send 24 members to the convention March 18 to 21 in Washington, D.C.

The bill was submitted at the Sept. 30 meeting by commuter representative Sebastian Moleski, a sophomore international economics major.

"We're trying to get out there more than other schools to raise our hopes and dreams to make it to (medical) school," said SGA member Jared Heathman, a sophomore biology major and Alpha Epsilon Delta member. "This money would boost

(more on SGA, page 2)



Alpha Epsilon Delta President Jennifer Hawkins presents a bill asking SGA to fund AED's trip to Washington, D.C.

Stephen Spillman/Photo Editor

Moussaoui pleas for civilian trial

BY LARRY MARGASAK
Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — With a military tribunal possibly looming for al-Qaida defendant Zacarias Moussaoui, the government served notice Tuesday that it will ask an appeals court to salvage a civilian prosecution that was nearly gutted by a trial judge.

Prosecutors notified the trial judge in Moussaoui's case that they will appeal to the 4th Circuit, based in Richmond.

The key issue is the govern-

ment's refusal to make three al-Qaida prisoners available to Moussaoui. The government defied two district court orders that gave Moussaoui the right to question the captives because they might help his defense.

To sanction the government for its defiance, U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema on Thursday barred the government from seeking the death penalty or presenting any evidence that could link Moussaoui to the Sept. 11 suicide hijackings.

If the government cannot

restore its full prosecution case, it would be more likely the Bush administration would move the case to a military tribunal, where rules might be more favorable to prosecutors.

Though Moussaoui was indicted in December 2001, the government said the appeal "is not taken for the purpose of delay."

Brinkema concluded it was unfair for the government to present Sept. 11 evidence and seek

(more on TRIAL, page 2)

THE PULSE

www.skiff.tcu.edu

Campus Lines

Your bulletin board for campus events

Announcements of campus events, public meetings and other general campus information should be brought to the TCU Daily Skiff office at Moudy Building South, Room 291, mailed to TCU Box 298050 or e-mailed to (skiffletters@tcu.edu). Deadline for receiving announcements is 2 p.m. the day before they are to run. The Skiff reserves the right to edit submissions for style, taste and space available.

■ **TCU Semester in Florence program and TCU London Centre** are accepting applications, due Wednesday. For more information, contact the International Education office at (817) 257-7473 or in Sadler Hall, room 16.

■ **The Center for Writing** is located on the top floor of the Rickel Academic Wing of the University Recreation Center, across from Moncrief Hall. Students who want to discuss some of their writing can stop by the Center for Writing or call (817) 257-7221 for an appointment.

■ **TCU Wednesday Worship** will meet at noon in Robert Carr Chapel. Call University Ministries at (817) 257-7830 or e-mail k.b.low@tcu.edu for more information.

■ **Residence Hall Association** presents "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl" at 8 p.m. tonight at Frog Fountain. There will be free movie snacks and a free raffle with a chance to win a DVD player.

■ **Hispanic Heritage Month Committee** presents a two-week Latino Film Series starting at 6 p.m. tonight in Moudy 164S. Tonight's feature will be a documentary, "The Bronze Screen: 100 Years of Latino Image in Hollywood." A brief introduction by Joan McGettigan of the RTVF department will precede the film. Admission is free. For more information, call (817) 257-7855.

■ **20:24 Bible Study** meets at 6:15 p.m. Sundays in Sid Richardson, lecture hall 1.

TCU DAILY SKIFF

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Gov. Bush argues for coma victim's right to continue therapy

BY VICKIE CHACHERE

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Gov. Jeb Bush is arguing that a brain-damaged woman should be provided therapy despite a state judge's order to remove the feeding tube that has been keeping her alive.

In documents made public Tuesday, lawyers representing the governor argued that Terri Schiavo is entitled to therapy aimed at helping her swallow to determine if she can eat and drink on her own.

The brief, filed late Monday, argues that state law recognizes the persistent vegetative state Schiavo is in as different from having a terminal illness.

"Terri's right to life is violated by the state when the state, acting as her guardian, assumes that her wish to live without artificial sustenance is the same as her wish not to be fed at all," the governor's brief said. "The fact that she is unable to give herself nour-

ishment is not a symptom of a dying body. It is the result of severe injury and disability."

The 39-year-old woman has been at the center of a long legal battle between her parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, and her husband and legal guardian, Michael Schiavo. She suffered severe brain damage following

"The fact that she is unable to give herself nourishment is not a symptom of a dying body. It is the result of severe injury and disability."

— Jeb Bush

Florida governor

in the court rules for Bush's brief and said he will file a motion to strike it from the record.

"I think it's a very poor precedent, and it's an unfortunate use of his authority," Felos said Tuesday. "Having the governor trying to intervene in this case ... gives the impression that he is trying to put political pressure on the judiciary, and I think that's wrong."

Pat Anderson, the lawyer representing the Schindlers, declined to comment on the filing.

Court-appointed doctors have testified that Terri Schiavo's brain damage is so severe she cannot be rehabilitated. Her feeding tube is set to be removed Oct. 15.

The governor's filing in the Schiavo case is an opinion, not a formal intervention seeking to replace Michael Schiavo as his wife's guardian. Earlier this year, Bush had unsuccessfully tried to intervene in another case, asking an Orlando court to appoint a guardian for the fetus of a disabled rape victim.

a heart attack in 1990.

The parents want her kept alive; her husband says she never wanted to be kept alive artificially. A hearing is scheduled for Friday.

George Felos, a lawyer representing Michael Schiavo, contends there is no provi-

EMPLOYEE

From page 1

receive tuition benefits to a state-funded community college in the district where the employee resides.

The main difference in the suggestions is that the committee's recommendation would not provide tuition benefits to students who attend community colleges outside of their county of residence, while the Staff Assembly's recommendation would allow these students to receive benefits to Tarrant County College no matter

where they reside.

There are 30 dependents who were not accepted to TCU that receive tuition benefits under the university's current program, Turner said.

Before members of the Staff Assembly discussed their recommendation, Carol Campbell, vice chancellor for finance and administration, gave a presentation on the university's financial situation.

Campbell said decreases in the value of the university's endowment will create a deficit of about \$5 million in the university's budget. Campbell said the university has room to raise tuition, but other

spending cuts need to be made.

Chancellor Victor Boschini said cuts are needed to ensure the university's success.

"You can't kill the goose that laid the golden egg," Boschini said.

Campbell would not say specifically whether she supported the recommendations or not.

"I will be glad to bring the recommendations from this assembly and from the RIB committee forward," Campbell said.

Boschini and other top administrators will make the final decision.

Meghan Youker

m.m.youker@tcu.edu

TRIAL

From page 1

Moussaoui's death without allowing him to present witnesses who might support his contention that he was not a conspirator in the attacks.

Moussaoui was charged with a broad conspiracy that includes — but is not limited to — the Sept. 11 attacks. His is the only U.S. criminal case spawned by the suicide hijackings.

A three-judge appellate panel has heard oral arguments on a previous government challenge to the order granting Moussaoui access through a satellite hookup to one of the prisoners — Sept. 11 planner Ramzi Binalshibh.

However, the hearing before the appellate panel took place before Brinkema gave Moussaoui satellite access to two additional prisoners: Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the mastermind of the attacks, and Mustafa Ahmed al-Hawsawi, a suspected paymaster for al-Qaida.

The appellate judges would likely want the prosecution and defense to submit new arguments related to the government's refusal to make Mohammed and al-Hawsawi available as witnesses.

DIVERSITY

From page 1

operations at Texas Health Resources, Vanessa Ruiz Boling, director of Human Relations Commission for the City of Fort Worth, Mervil Johnson, Workforce Collaboration manager, Tom Slone, chairman of Touchstone Communications, and Rosa Navejar, president of the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Kim Diggles, a senior psychology major, said the conference

taught her that to really be inclusive, you have to step out of your comfort zone.

"It's okay to be uncomfortable," Diggles said. "That's how you learn from other people."

Tracy Williams, a junior speech communication major, said in order to see change within a community, change has to happen within ourselves first.

"We can't look for other people to change unless we're willing to change before them," she said.

Matt Potter

m.potter@tcu.edu

ELECTION

From page 1

Exit polling explained why: Many Hispanics and union members — two key groups in Davis' past electoral successes — deserted him as he suffered extraordinarily low job approval ratings amid widespread voter discontent about the state's economy.

Davis won election in 1998 with 70 percent support from Hispanics and a similar percentage of voters from union households, and he got about 65 percent of both groups in his re-election last year. But in the recall, about half of Hispanics and of voters with union members in their households voted to recall Davis, according to voter surveys conducted for The Associated Press and other news organizations by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International.

Seven in 10 voters disapproved of how Davis was handling his job. Nearly half of all voters strongly disapproved, and among them, nine in 10 voted for the

recall and seven in 10 voted for Schwarzenegger, the exit poll found.

Long lines were reported at polling places through the day. By late afternoon, Terri Carbaugh, a spokeswoman for the Secretary of State, said a turnout of 60 percent appeared likely, higher than the 50.7 percent who voted in last November's gubernatorial election.

Re-elected last year with less than 50 percent of the vote, Davis fell victim to a groundswell of discontent in a state that has struggled with its perilous financial condition.

Once chief of staff to Gov. Jerry Brown, he rose through the political ranks as a state assemblyman, controller and lieutenant governor, before becoming governor in 1999.

By contrast, Schwarzenegger's political inexperience seemed a virtue to many voters.

The actor's improbable rise to political power played out before a rapt international audience. He announced his candidacy in August on "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno" after aides said it was certain he wouldn't run.

SGA

From page 1

success for TCU and allow the numbers that we want to go to (medical) school."

The original bill asked for an allocation of \$8,000 for the trip, but SGA treasurer Chris Mattingly said the finance committee decided on the amount of \$2,600.

"We have to take into consideration a broad number areas, including how much we have in the budget," said Mattingly, a junior international finance and accounting major.

Mattingly said SGA has about \$9,000 to give to organizations each semester.

"It's hard to justify giving all the money we have to various organizations," Mattingly said. "With their program coming up around Spring Break, and the sizable amount of their members, we felt a reasonable amount they could raise on their own was around 75 percent."

Hawkins, a senior biology major, said she was pleased with the voting results.

"The event allows students to meet other schools and people in the profession and get them pre-

pared for the profession they're going to face in the future," Hawkins said.

Two other bills were introduced Tuesday night.

Communications chairwoman, Corrie Lockhart, a sophomore advertising and public relations major, submitted a bill to make the communications committee a standing committee in SGA. Molski introduced a bill to equip the SGA offices with new computers.

Both bills will be voted on next Tuesday.

Danny Gillham

d.r.gillham@tcu.edu

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OPINION

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The Skiff View

BAD CALL

Telemarketers should observe list

You're at home, the phone rings and you pick it up. Is it a friend asking you to have lunch with him? A family member? Nope, after a long pause and a few "hellos", a telemarketer comes on the line and asks for someone with a last name similar to yours.

It's happened to all of us, and it's one of the major annoyances the information age has provided. But it appears someone called the wrong person at dinnertime and put the whole industry in danger. With speed unheard of, the United States Congress passed legislation for the creation of a "do-not-call list."

Finally, something useful to middle-class America came from the Capitol dome. Millions of people gleefully signed up to stop hearing calls regarding aluminum siding for their apartment.

The Direct Marketing Association brought the issue to court and stopped the Federal Trade Commission from enforcing the list or letting others use the list. Rather than shift to other modes of advertising, they're trying to hold on to the annoying American institution.

The Federal Communications Commission took up the banner and vowed to enforce the list. They started taking complaints, and 250 were filed in the first eight hours of their enforcement. They kept the list alive until yesterday, when an appeals court judge returned enforcement powers to the FTC.

The telemarketers should be applauded for voluntarily observing the do-not-call list in the last week. By their estimates, 90 percent of the numbers on the list are already out of their databases. However, it makes perfect sense considering the people on the list aren't very likely to buy anything.

The legal wrangling is far from over, but for right now, the guys in the white hats are winning. We can only hope the Justice system values the right to privacy and a peaceful home as much as the general public does.

The Other View

Opinions from around the country

Pursuing knowledge is not about recognition

Once again, the world's leaders in academic and scientific study will step into the international spotlight as the most renowned honor in research recognition is awarded to six or more of their colleagues this week.

The Nobel Prizes, given in six categories of the humanities and sciences, will be awarded this week.

The international foundation announced Thursday its first award recipient. South African writer John Maxwell Coetzee received the Nobel Prize in literature for his life's work detailing the struggles of the outsider and the vindication his characters often receive after falling through the downward spiral needed before attaining salvation.

The week will reveal this year's recipients of the Nobel awards in physiology or medicine, physics, chemistry, economic sciences and peace.

If only for a short while, this week's announcements can remind all of humanity that the enduring spirit behind its existence has been to know the unknown and to achieve what has not been realized.

And this spirit is what guides

the world's universities and colleges. It is this spirit that propels the faculty and students who comprise academia to reach the most unattainable goals and afterward, to share their knowledge to propagate the process of learning and teaching. It is beautiful when learning itself is what the academic values most.

At the very least, Nobel Prizes give students and researchers confidence that a lifetime spent pursuing knowledge is not a lifetime wasted. And at the most, they can give everyone a sense that humans are capable of more good than bad.

As the week unfolds and students and professors become familiar with the work of these extraordinary researchers, they can also be reminded that the pursuit of knowledge is not the pursuit of individual recognition, glory or money. It is the pursuit of the very essence of existence: to know is to be.

This week should remind everyone that there is more to life than material pursuits and rewards.

This is a staff editorial from the Daily Lobo at the University of New Mexico. This column was distributed by U-Wire.

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Letters to the editor: The Skiff welcomes letters to the editor for publication. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, signed and limited to 250 words. To submit a letter, bring it to the Skiff, Mandy 2915; mail it to TCU Box 298050; e-mail it to skiffletters@tcu.edu or fax it to 257-7133. Letters must include the author's classification, major and phone number. The Skiff reserves the right to edit or reject letters for style, taste and size restrictions.

NEW YORK STATE MAY EXTEND SMOKING BAN TO PRIVATE AUTOMOBILES



What about boys?

The Dallas Independent School District is going ahead with plans for an all-girl public high school. A number of studies

have shown that females benefit from single-sex education, so the school could be an interesting experiment for Dallas and for Texas in general.

That may be fine for the girls, but how about the boys?

Quite a bit of attention has been focused on improving education for females in the past few decades, and rightly so. Between active discrimination against women and passive bias in the classroom, females have historically gotten a raw deal. So it's understandable that educators and social policy makers are interested in improving schooling for females.

The problem is that males have gotten lost in the shuffle. Women are now out-performing men in nearly every educational assessment. Even fields like

math and science, which used to be dominated by men, are now almost even.

Unfortunately, while women seem to be doing better and better in school, men appear to be doing worse and worse in comparison.

Why is this? Are girls smarter than boys? Maybe, but I doubt it. This is a problem that is bound up with our culture, our educational focus and with male students themselves.

The cultural idea of what it means to be male has undergone a revolution since the fight for women's rights. The old male ideal was responsibility. Men were caretakers of their family, of the church, the government, the company. Now that those roles are shared, men seem to be defined merely by testosterone.

Intelligence is not something that is admired in men by popular culture. The typical sitcom formula these days deals with an idiotic husband and a smart wife. Athletes and entertainers routinely shun education and celebrate ignorance. Even President Bush brags about how terrible he did in school!

All of this adds up to a very negative cultural attitude towards education for males. There are some parallels for women (Jessica Simpson, for example), but in general, our society has a much better attitude towards intelligent women than intelligent men.

Society is not solely to blame for the problems boys are having with education. The education system needs to put much more work into finding solutions that benefit both males and females. We also need to find answers to specific problems boys are having in school — answers that go beyond just pumping our kids full of Ritalin.

We face a looming crisis if we do not take care of the young men in our society. There aren't many jobs left that only require a high school diploma. Lack of education virtually guarantees poverty in this country. If we let a generation of young men fall through the cracks, they will drag the country down with them.

Josh Deitz is a senior political science major from Atlanta. He can be reached at j.m.deitz@tcu.edu.

China should have some concerns about N. Korea

While Iraq and Iran have taken precedence in the news lately, there is still another country of great concern to both the U.S. and Asia: North Korea.

Only last week, North Korea rejected International Atomic Energy Agency requests

for resuming inspections and shutting down its nuclear weapons development program. Because of China's ties to North Korea and the rest of Southeast Asia, some people wonder how the country will act in this difficult situation. In

my opinion, while China has concerns with the United States, it will intervene to stop North Korea's nuclear weapons program for its own reasons.

To understand my reasoning, take recent Chinese history into account. In the 1970s, Japan re-established diplomatic relations with China. In 1992, China officially recognized South Korea. While there are still problems between China and Taiwan, tensions from the Cold War have cooled. Since China, South Korea, Japan and Taiwan have re-established political ties, all of them have built thriving economies and strong trade relations. While China and North Korea have had formal relations since the Korean War, politics have changed in the region.

China has eagerly accepted limited capitalism as part of its economic reform, but North Korea has still shown reluctance in giving up communist control of its economy. According to (cnn.com), China annoyed North Korea in October 2002, when it arrested a Chinese business investor for

tax evasion, who was appointed to advise North Korea on economic reform. While relations with its other partners have developed into a multibillion-dollar trade, China's relations with North Korea consist of massive foreign aid with no material return.

In the meantime, does China have anything to worry about if North Korea continues to pursue nuclear arms? Yes. According to Peter Worthing, professor of Asian history at TCU, while China has no direct security concerns with North Korea,

it does have socioeconomic fears, such as a possible influx of North Korean refugees over its borders. According to a (townhall.com) column, if North Korea continues its nuclear weapons development, China may have to worry about South Korea, Japan or Taiwan developing

nuclear weapons in response. Many people mistakenly believe that China will side with North Korea in this nuclear weapons issue. In reality, China recently moved additional troops to the North Korean border to emphasize their displeasure with its neighbor. This is similar to U.S. opinion about China during the Cold War. While the Soviet Union and China were originally allies, due to various problems, they became enemies later on. Admittedly China does not have the direct security concerns of its trading partners or the United States. But, for its own reasons, China will support efforts towards a non-nuclear North Korea.

Eugene Chu is a senior political science major from Arlington. He can be reached at e.t.chu@tcu.edu.

Utopian state a good start

In this age of political apathy, where the differences between most candidates' platforms are defined more by convention than actual policy, at least one political party is doing something interesting.

COMMENTARY

The Libertarian Party has selected New Hampshire as the host site for its Free State Project. The idea, first conceived three years ago, is to convince 20,000 libertarians from across the country to move to a single state and use their strength as a voting bloc to create a Libertarian utopia.

Most states might see this as colonization by gun-toting pot-heads with gambling addictions, but it seems that New Hampshire is more than happy to have them. While the decision was still up in the air, Republican Gov. Craig Benson told the libertarians, "Come on up. We'd love to have you."

Accompanying the governor's hospitality, there are also institutionalized aspects of New Hampshire government that will ease the job of creating a libertarian society. First of all, there's the clause in the state's constitution specifying the peoples' rights to revolution and secession: "Whenever the ends of government are perverted, and public liberty manifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may, and of right ought to reform the old, or establish a new government."

New Hampshire also boasts the lowest state and local tax burden in the country. And of course there's the state motto, "Live free or die." I didn't make that up.

So what does all this mean? Five thousand people are already signed up to move and they hope to hit the 20,000 mark in two years. Combined with local support, they may have a chance to actually pull this thing off. Granted, the libertarians are hoping to move 20,000 people — not a lot compared to the almost 570,000 people who voted in New Hampshire in 2000, but let's assume they're embraced by the community and allowed to do whatever they want. Then what? Will it serve as a model of liberty for the world, as the libertarian party hopes, or will it stumble and fall into a pit of addiction and inequality?

Well, I don't really know. Given a libertarian tax environment, businesses should flock to the area and, given the small populace and general seclusion, it would appear that if instituting an ideologically ideal society can work anywhere, it would be New Hampshire. Then again, there is the ever-present fact that some, if not most, libertarians are kinda wacky.

So, for the record, I'd like to place my support behind the Free State Project. I'm not sure how things will go in New Hampshire once it's completed, but I think it's great that at least one group in America is going beyond simply complaining about how things are in this country and is actually trying to change something by taking its own initiative.

Will Minton is a columnist for The Pitt News at the University of Pittsburgh. This column was distributed by U-Wire.

NEWS DIGEST

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National/State Roundup

Waco teacher arrested for child pornography

WACO (AP) — An elementary school teacher was jailed after being arrested on charges of possessing and promoting child pornography.

Frank F. Stuart, 48, a Provident Heights Elementary music teacher, gave permission for detectives to search his computer at school and his Waco apartment, police said.

The detectives found pornography on his home computer and arrested him at the apartment after school Monday, the Waco Police Department reported.

Waco Independent School District spokesman Dale Caffey said the district has suspended Stuart with pay and notified parents that an arrest warrant had been issued. Caffey said the district was "devastated" by the arrest and is concerned about the children's safety.

Stuart, the school's only music teacher, was hired in 1994 after a routine background check showed no prior problems, Caffey said.

Dotson scheduled for extradition to Texas

CHESTERTOWN, Md. (AP) — Carlton Dotson was to appear in court Tuesday to be served with an extradition warrant signed by Gov. Robert Ehrlich.

Dotson has been held in a Kent County jail since July, after Texas authorities charged him with murdering Patrick Dennehy, a Baylor University basketball player and Dotson's

former teammate and roommate.

Ehrlich's warrant was forwarded two weeks ago to the sheriff's office in Kent County. The hearing was scheduled for 12:15 p.m. CDT, Tuesday in Kent County District Court.

Dotson can continue opposing extradition by filing an appeal, Maryland extradition coordinators said.

Ehrlich signed the warrant after receiving a recommendation last month from a Maryland assistant attorney general. Dotson refused to return voluntarily to Texas, but neither he nor his lawyers attended an extradition hearing in Annapolis that he had requested.

Prosecutors in McLennan County, Texas, say Dotson, 21, shot Dennehy, 21, in June.

Dennehy's body was found July 25 in a field near a rock quarry southeast of Waco. An autopsy determined Dennehy died of two gunshot wounds to the head.

FBI may join possible hate crime investigation

LINDEN (AP) — The beating of a black man who was left unconscious on an East Texas road is under investigation as a possible hate crime.

The FBI may join the investigation into the beating of Billy Ray Johnson as soon as Tuesday, says Linden Police Chief Alton McWaters.

Johnson, 42, has remained hospitalized with head and facial injuries that included bruising to the brain since the attack late last month.

David Martinez, a Linden police investigator, said he believes a group of white men took Johnson to a party in Linden, beat him up and then dumped him out in the county. He was found in a ditch Sept. 28.

Officials said Johnson had attended a party in Linden with seven or eight other men. If race is determined to be the reason for the assault, it would be classified as a hate crime, McWaters said.

"We're trying to sort out who saw what and who all was there ... I think more than one person saw what happened but we're not sure if one or more took him out to the county," McWaters told the *Texarkana Gazette* in Tuesday's editions.

No arrests have been made.

'Robin Hood' solutions could affect oil and gas

MIDLAND (AP) — The state's oil and gas industry, especially those businesses with the smallest stake, stand to be affected the most by reforms in the system of financing public school districts, a Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association official says.

Among options under consideration by state lawmakers to fix the "Robin Hood" system of school finance are seeking a state sales tax on most services or changing the proportion of sales and property taxes used to fund public education, Martin V. Fleming, TIPRO vice president of public affairs, said Monday.

Fleming told about 40 TIPRO

members and nonmembers at the Midland Petroleum Club that reforms to the system have the "potential to really change the economics of the oil and gas industry."

Separate work groups created by legislators will host public hearings on school-finance reform, said Fleming, adding that Gov. Rick Perry wants a formal report on alternative funding methods on his desk by March.

Man sets fire in historic Roman Catholic church

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — A man armed with a handgun and lighter fluid set fire to two chairs on the altar of a historic Roman Catholic church Tuesday and briefly barricaded himself inside before police arrested him.

The standoff lasted less than an hour.

The fire caused only minor damage to the twin-spired Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, which dates to 1873 and is the site of the Mass that kicks off this city's annual St. Patrick's Day festivities.

The heavyset, blond man, who was not identified, entered the sanctuary shortly after morning Mass ended about 9 a.m. Receptionist Peggy Baker said she approached him when she saw him walk up to the altar.

"He told me to stand back, he had lighter fluid," Baker said. "He threw it on a chair and started lighting a cushion. I told him he can't do that. ... He told me to stand back and pointed the gun at me."

Savannah Archdiocese

spokeswoman Barbara King said a Monsignor noticed the man on a security camera setting fire to the altar and ran inside the sanctuary yelling at him to put the fire out. She said he set fire to the bishop's chair and another chair where priests sit.

The man was arrested less than an hour later. King said he was so surprised by officers that he left the gun laying on the altar.

King said the church underwent a \$10 million restoration in 2000 and remains a popular tourist stop. The flames were contained only to the altar.

Employee opens fire in VA medical complex

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. (AP) — An employee opened fire in an office at the Veterans Affairs medical complex Tuesday morning but no one was hit, authorities said.

The man was taken into custody after he fired three shots inside the personnel resources office of Alvin C. York Veterans Affairs Medical Center, left the building and fired again outside, VA spokeswoman Molly Reynolds said.

Authorities returned fire, but no one was struck, she said.

The unidentified man is a VA employee who doesn't work in the building where the shooting occurred.

Two VA employees were in the office when the gunman began firing.

"They're shaken, but I'm sure they're back to conducting business,"

Reynolds said.

All patients were safe and none were on the first floor where the shooting happened at about 7:30 a.m., Reynolds said.

The FBI was called in to handle the investigation because the site is federal property, she said.

Balloon race continues over Texas Panhandle

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — Three of 14 balloons remained aloft Tuesday morning in the America's Challenge gas balloon race, which was led by a German-American team floating over Texas.

German pilot Wilhelm Eimers and American co-pilot Greg Winker took the lead late Monday as they flew over the Texas Panhandle.

They were about 35 miles west of Abilene early Tuesday, said Kathie Leyendecker, Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta spokeswoman.

The race began Sunday as part of the annual fiesta. The team that drifts the farthest from Albuquerque will win the race.

Eimers and Winker held a lead of about 100 miles over the Albuquerque team of Richard Abruzzo and Carol Rymer-Davis, who were 53 miles west-northwest of Liberal, Kan.

The Albuquerque team of Barbara Fricke and Peter Cuneo were 73 miles southwest of Liberal.

The rest of the teams in the competition had landed by late Monday night, said Kim Vesely, race spokeswoman.

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TOP 15 COMEDIES YOU SHOULD SEE

Did any of these movies win Academy Awards? We don't care. Do any of these movies have redeeming social value? Not likely. But we do care that many students will graduate without seeing some of the best comedies ever made. To help those students, the *Skiff* staff has put together a list of some of the comedies every student should see before graduation.



SLACKERS

2002's biggest glory in the underrated movie department would have to come in the form of "Slackers," starring Devon Sawa, James King and Jason Schwartzman (from Rushmore). While extremely vulgar at times, Schwartzman is the highlight of the film, constructing hair dolls from his obsession (King), flashing the peace sign incessantly and nicknaming himself "Cool Ethan" while driving around on his unicycle. Admittedly, Slackers is one of those movies you have to watch more than once to notice how funny it is, but after you watch twice, you'll probably watch about 200 more. On second thought, people afraid to laugh at obvious drug and bodily humor need not apply.

- 2002
- Starring: Devon Sawa, Jason Schwartzman, James King
- Directed by: Dewey Nicks

THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS

Gene Hackman leads a superb cast as the recovering dead-beat dad, Royal Tennenbaum, tries to repent for his selfish ways and set things right with his estranged children and ex-wife who have long-since moved on with their lives. The quirky, unconventional film has a moral and sweet sentimentality that runs through it. Anderson digs into the weaknesses of all the characters, and despite their oddities, finds something quaintly humane about them.

- 2001
- Starring: Gene Hackman, Angelica Houston, Luke Wilson, Ben Stiller, Gwyneth Paltrow
- Directed by: Wes Anderson

DOGMA

Two mischievous angels who were laid-off by God and banished to Wisconsin are determined to go home. They set out for New Jersey, determined to use a little-known loophole in church law that would allow them to get back into heaven and thus negate all existence. God is missing, so the heavenly forces dispatch an abortion clinic worker, who is a distant relation of Jesus Christ, Jay, Silent Bob and Rufus, the black, 13th Apostle, to stop them.

- 1999
- Starring: Linda Fiorentino, Ben Affleck, Matt Damon, Alan Rickman, Selma Hayek
- Directed by: Kevin Smith

SIXTEEN CANDLES

Samantha Baker wakes up on her sixteenth birthday to discover everyone, including her own family, has forgotten her special day. To make matters worse, she has a massive crush on Jake Ryan, an older guy who dates the prom queen and doesn't even know she exists. It's got all the stereotypical characters needed — the dork, the popular jock and plain old Samantha — to take you back to your own high school days.

- 1984
- Starring: John Hughes, Molly Ringwald, Justin Henry, Michael Schoeffling
- Directed by: John Hughes

FATHER OF THE BRIDE

When George Banks envisioned his daughter's wedding reception, he imagined slinging burgers in a chef's hat surrounded by crepe paper and balloons. He had no idea what the next few months of his life would be like. Steve Martin plays the hilarious dad who is emotionally and financially tortured in every step of his only daughter's wedding plans. The excessive expenses, the swans at the reception and the fact that hot dogs come in packs of four while buns come in packs of six is all too much for George to handle.

- 1991
- Starring: Steve Martin, Diane Keaton, Kimberly Williams, Charles Shyer
- Directed by: Charles Shyer

CADDYSHACK

This movie revolves around the scheme of a vulgar land developer who wants to build condominiums on the site of a ritzy country club. Director Harold Ramis is content to let the comedy follow a variety of wacky detours, most notably Murray's war with a gopher that has been digging up the golf course. Dangerfield ultimately steals the show, firing off a battery of one-liners, insults and tasteless gags.

- 1980
- Starring: Michael O'Keefe, Chevy Chase, Rodney Dangerfield, Bill Murray
- Directed by: Harold Ramis

MISS FIRECRACKER

This movie is about a small-town girl with a bad reputation who has turned over a new leaf in her life and decided to make something of herself. After being fired from her job at the fish plant Carnelle (Holly Hunter) enters a beauty pageant in hopes of winning just as her cousin did a few years before. The film is full of humor and quirkiness and will have you cracking up most of the time, especially if you have ever been in a beauty pageant.

- 1988
- Starring: Holly Hunter, Mary Steenburgen, Tim Robbins
- Directed by: Thomas Schlamme

BLAZING SADDLES

This movie is so absurd that it's genius. It brings vastly different elements together and defies the norm. The movie features an African-American sheriff in the Old West, trying to win over an all-white town. "Blazing Saddles" has a culmination of shoot-outs, citizenship, flamboyant dancing and a movie within a movie, all mixed with comedic relief. Such random elements and varying plot lines can make the movie seem busy at times, requiring the viewer to pay full attention, but director Mel Brooks makes chaos look so good.

- 1974
- Starring: Mel Brooks, Cleavon Little, Gene Wilder, Slim Pickens
- Directed by: Mel Brooks

SO I MARRIED AN AXE MURDERER

A Mike Myers' classic from the "Wayne's World" days, Charlie Mackenzie (Myers) is a commitment-phobe who gives up on relationships for almost any reason. From the klepto who stole his cat, to the unemployed Mafia member, no girl will do. When Charlie falls for Harriet (Nancy Travis), a local butcher, he suspects that she may be the illusive Mrs. X, a murdering bride that kills her husbands on their wedding nights.

- 1993
- Starring: Mike Myers, Nancy Travis
- Directed by: Thomas Schlamme

LEGALLY BLONDE

Yes, it's corny, but Reese Witherspoon is too adorable as Elle Woods. Heart-broken Elle tries to win back her boyfriend after he dumped her to find someone more serious. To achieve this, she applies for Harvard Law School and, surprisingly, gets in. Along the journey, Elle finds herself and finds what she is really good at — law. She defies all stereotypes of blondes and sorority girls and manages to do it all without breaking a nail.

- 2001
- Starring: Reese Witherspoon, Luke Wilson, Selma Blair
- Directed by: Robert Luketic

ZOOLANDER

Ben Stiller is Derek Zoolander, a supermodel overflowing with charisma and no common sense. He is targeted by a dangerous crime organization that wants him to carry out some dangerous plans. Suddenly, Zoolander has to think fast — but with his head always in the clouds, Zoolander has trouble thinking at all. If you haven't seen it, do.

- 2001
- Starring: Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson, Christine Taylor, Will Ferrell, Jerry Stiller
- Directed by: Ben Stiller

PRINCESS BRIDE

Don't be fooled by the sappy name. This classic comedy tells the hilarious tale of Westly, a dashing pirate-type character who must rescue his true love, Princess Buttercup. Several years after Westly is presumed lost at sea, his girlfriend Buttercup becomes engaged to the arrogant Prince Humperdink. The prince is planning to kill-off Buttercup in an attempt to create war with a neighboring country. Enter Westly, who was not dead, but carving out a successful career in pirating. He forms an odd alliance with a revenge-obsessed Spaniard, a gentle giant and a kooky "Miracle Man." With great skill, teamwork and dumb luck, the group storms the castle to rescue Buttercup. A classic in its own right.

- 1987
- Starring: Robin Wright Penn, Wallace Shawn, Chris Sarandon, Andre the Giant
- Directed by: Rob Reiner

MALLRATS

"Mallrats," like all Kevin Smith movies, has an off-beat sense of humor that not everyone can understand or enjoy, making it even better. A protective dad tries to keep his daughter from her "loser" boyfriend, T.S. The better half of the movie takes place in the local mall and involves T. S. sabotaging a game show to try to win his girlfriend back. "Mallrats" combines real, adolescent emotions with zany actions and concepts, played out by Jay and Silent Bob.

- 1995
- Starring: Kevin Smith, Jeremy London, Jason London, Shannen Doherty, Ben Affleck
- Directed by: Kevin Smith

DR. STRANGELOVE: OR HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE BOMB

Psychotic, communist-hating Gen. Jack D. Ripper takes it upon himself to send the 34 B-52s under his command to attack the Soviet Union with nuclear weapons. When this is discovered by the President, he assembles 25 advisers in the War Room at the Pentagon to deal with the crisis. But it looks as though nothing can keep one of the B-52s, piloted by cowboy Col. Kong, from completing his mission.

- 1964
- Starring: Peter Sellers, George C. Scott, Sterling Hayden
- Directed by: Stanley Kubrick

MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL

Don't expect this movie to make sense. That is why it is so wonderful. From the subtitled opening credits to the massive police bust at the end, it is 89 minutes of pure silliness. King Arthur and his loyal servant Patsy set out to find the Holy Grail and collect a strange assortment of knights along the way. King Arthur engages in a conversation about coconuts and swallows with a castle guard, Sir Lancelot accidentally rescues an effeminate man and a few characters are picked off by a killer bunny. Not your typical knight's tale.

- 1975
- Starring: Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam
- Directed by: Terry Gilliam, Terry Jones



Texas may be at fault for inadequate care

Court to decide fate for states that don't live up to promises

BY GINA HOLLAND
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court wrangled Tuesday over whether Texas made an unbreakable promise to provide better health care to poor children, a case that asks what judges can do to states that don't live up to deals to end mass lawsuits.

The case immediately affects about 1.5 million Texas children who rely on the government for health and dental care. More broadly, it has implications for states that end class-action lawsuits

over such things as health care, education and prison conditions. These states are then accused of violating the agreements.

The issues are technical ones that give the Supreme Court a chance to further its recent line of states' rights rulings that have increased state powers at the expense of individuals and the federal government.

During arguments in the Texas case, the justices — even usual states' rights advocates — repeatedly expressed concerns about allowing states off the hook when they agree to federal court orders.

The 1996 court-approved settlement, or consent decree, ended a class-action lawsuit over Texas' services for children in the Medicaid program. The state, while not admitting it did anything wrong, agreed to make improvements.

Two years later, a group of poor children returned to federal court to complain that

the state had violated the agreement. The Texas attorney general claimed the state was immune from the challenges under the Constitution.

Texas was supported in the case by 19 states that have been or are currently involved in consent decrees. Their lawyers said in court filings that states are "bogged down in decades-old decrees requiring detailed, exacting performance of complex tasks."

But the Bush administration opposed Texas, arguing that the state gave up its immunity when it urged the court to approve the agreement in 1996. The administration said Texas could ask the judge to change the requirements.

Texas Solicitor General Edward Cruz told the Supreme Court that the state is

being forced to do things not required by federal law, such as training workers about cultural sensitivity and spending money on data collection.

Justice Antonin Scalia noted that the Texas attorney general, who has the authority to waive immunity, agreed to the settlement. "Why isn't that the end of this case?" Scalia asked.

Justices Anthony M. Kennedy and Sandra Day O'Connor also expressed skepticism about Cruz's argument.

"Then why enter a consent decree?" O'Connor asked. "It just doesn't make sense."

Cruz said that the agreement was made by a previous attorney general, and that the Legislature did not authorize the official to sign away the state's immunity.

Scalia said he was worried that some leaders could make big, expensive promises in cases without the backing of the top state officials.

A federal appeals court ruled for the state last year and praised it for hiring hundreds more employees, going into communities to tell families face-to-face about health services, providing better transportation and setting up a toll-free phone number.

Susan Zinn of San Antonio, the attorney for the poor families who filed the suit, said after the argument that just 3 percent of the children eligible for help are getting treatment they need. "Federal court orders are entitled to respect," she said.

This case was the first one argued in the Supreme Court's 2003-04 term. Justices will issue their ruling before the term ends next summer.

The case is *Frew v. Gilbert*, 02-628.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The cultural idea of what it means to be male has undergone a revolution since the fight for women's rights."

- Josh Deitz, columnist

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PURPLE POLL

Q: Would you like the color of the graduation caps to change from black to purple?

A: YES 64 NO 34 HUH? 2



Data collected from an informal poll conducted in TCU's Main Cafeteria. This poll is not a scientific sampling and should not be regarded as representative of campus public opinion.

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ACROSS

- 1 Wound covering
- 5 Highland hillside
- 9 Wear away
- 14 Collection of tubes
- 15 Lounge around
- 16 Not even once
- 17 Dictator Idi
- 18 Geshas' sashes
- 19 Drinking vessel
- 20 Whopper
- 21 On two occasions
- 22 Started the fire again
- 23 Sharp
- 25 Sir Isaac
- 27 Scull propeller
- 29 Restaurant greeter
- 33 Contenders
- 38 Cry of discovery
- 39 Ovation
- 40 Approaches
- 41 Illum
- 42 Sea eagle
- 43 Conventions
- 45 Ate heartily
- 47 Transgression
- 48 Financial examinations
- 51 Winner's token
- 55 Emisary
- 58 Extended family member
- 60 Bolter
- 61 Restrict
- 62 Sicilian volcano
- 63 Winter blanket
- 64 Best of the best
- 65 Mail unit
- 66 Plot of land
- 67 Woodland creature of myth
- 68 Withered
- 69 Equal

DOWN

- 1 Starway in Italy
- 2 Kind of book or relief
- 3 French farewell
- 4 Dancer Vereen
- 5 Exhale forcefully
- 6 A Hood
- 7 Wonderland visitor
- 8 In another galaxy
- 9 Absorb
- 10 Ease off
- 11 Ellipsoid
- 12 Lucy's love
- 13 Onco, once
- 21 Freshwater duck
- 24 Related
- 26 Human trunks
- 28 Leased
- 30 OK Corral combatant
- 31 Oxford or pump
- 32 Utters
- 33 King of the kitchen
- 34 Fabied also-ran
- 35 Winter Quindien
- 36 Privation
- 37 Long-armed fish
- 41 Actress Daly
- 43 Speak haltingly
- 44 Fourth dimension
- 46 Mental health lagers
- 49 One-tenth donation
- 50 Mexican mister
- 52 Twist or tango
- 53 Reverse
- 54 Downgrade
- 55 Alternative to lagers
- 56 Colorado tributary
- 57 Give off
- 59 Cod or Coral
- 63 Nincompoop

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The Sideline

Tull named C-USA's co-golfer of the month

Preseason All-American Brooke Tull has collected her first official award of the new school year, taking home Conference USA Co-Golfer of the Month honors for September. The senior picked up one tournament title and a top-10 finish in the Horned Frogs' two events last month.

The Georgetown, Texas, native started out the 2003-04 season in style, claiming individual medalist honors at the Northwest Invite in Sunriver, Ore., in mid-September. The victory was the third collegiate tournament championship for Tull and her first since the Furman Lady Paladin in fall 2002. The two-time all-league performer posted scores of 74-70-75 to finish with a three-round total of 219 (+3). She helped the Frogs to a second-place finish among 16 teams.

She followed up that showing by tying for ninth place at the Dick McGuire Invitational in Albuquerque, N.M., after a three-over-par score of 222. Tull carded rounds of 78, 71 and 73 in that event, which featured five nationally-ranked squads.

Tull has been named C-USA's Golfer of the Year each of the past two seasons. She is currently rated 46th in the nation individually, according to the Golfweek/Sagarin rankings system.

— courtesy of www.gofrogs.com

Fans should expect more from Frogs

The Frogs are 5-0 for only the second time since World War II. The defense is ranked in the top 20 in most NCAA statistical categories, and the offense is averaging over 400 yards a

COMMENTARY

Carlos Alvarado

If this were 1998, before the LaDainian Tomlinson and Dennis Franchione era, Frog fans would be ripping down the goal posts after each victory.

It is the 2003 season, however, and Frog fans have high expectations for this talented team.

Five games into this season, the Frogs have yet to dominate their early season opponents the way most fans expect them to, and fans do not know what to expect from the team from week to week.

The team's inconsistencies have left many fans wondering how this particular team will fare

against tougher competition. These fans will have their questions answered Friday when the Frogs play at South Florida. This game, more than any other one so far this season, is sure to be the best indicator of what this year's team is made of.

"We look forward to this game because they are the first athletic group we are going to face," head coach Gary Patterson said.

The Bulls, who had a 5-0 record against Conference USA teams last year, seem ready for the challenge of facing the conference's competition this season, especially after coming off a victory over perennial C-USA favorite Louisville.

In addition to facing the most athletic and physical team on their schedule this season Friday night, the Frogs will also be playing a South Florida team that has not lost in its last 21 home games

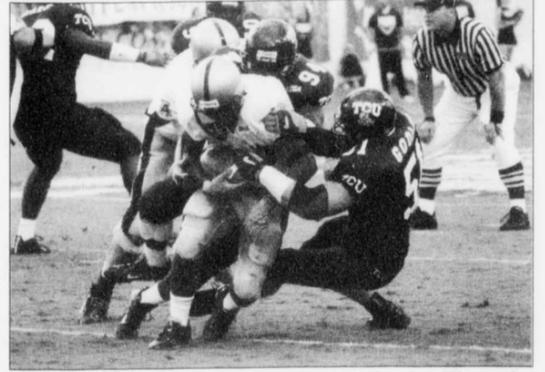
at Raymond James Stadium.

The Frogs are certain to bring a young, offensive team and one of the nation's premiere defenses into the contest against the Bulls. The team is hoping to continue to improve upon its red zone efficiency for a second straight week, as TCU showed great strides toward becoming more successful Saturday night against Army.

A majority of the team's inconsistencies on the offensive side of the ball this season can be attributed to the numerous injuries that have left key starting players on the sideline during the past few weeks.

"We've been able to win with younger players," Patterson said. "They need to keep learning as the competition gets stiffer."

TCU's record of 5-0 gives fans a great feeling, especially those who remember the good ol' days



Simon Lopez/Photographer

Senior linebacker Josh Goolsby and senior defensive end Robert Pollard work together to tackle Army's running back during Saturday's game.

when one win against Southern Methodist was all they hoped for.

Times have changed. The season has changed. It is now time for the Frogs to begin answering

the questions.

"Now it's time to play," Patterson said.

Carlos Alvarado
c.a.alvarado@tcu.edu

Struggling Aggie defense to face more challenges

BY MICHAEL A. LUTZ
Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION — Texas A&M offensive tackle Alan Reuber knows the sting of public scrutiny all too well. That's why he's so sympathetic to the Aggies' beleaguered defense.

"For four years we were the kicking dogs offensively and the offensive line especially," Reuber said Tuesday. "We were the ones trying to pick up the slack so I know exactly where they are."

The Aggies' once proud defense has

been booted around for three straight weeks, most recently by Texas Tech, which lit up the scoreboard in Saturday's 59-28 loss to the Red Raiders.

It was the most points allowed by an Aggies defense in school history and the young defenders still have a tough schedule ahead that includes No. 1 ranked Oklahoma and Texas.

The Aggies offense hasn't been setting records either in coach Dennis Franchione's first season but the defense, dotted with true and red-shirt freshmen, has been allowing records to happen.

The Aggies defense ranks 96th nationally in total defense and is 91st in pass defense.

The defense is taking the biggest share of blame for the Aggies' 2-3 start.

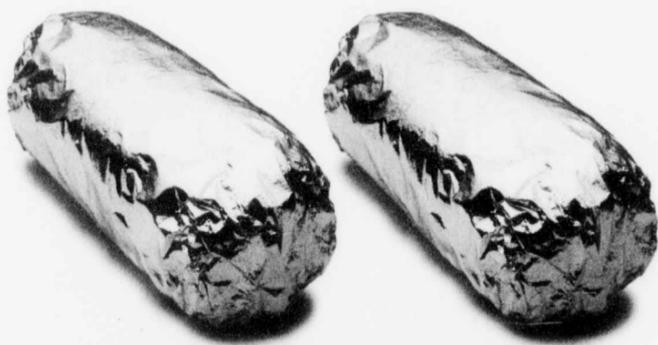
"It's (criticism) not something we didn't expect," said safety Jaxson Appel. "We haven't played well enough to keep people from harping on us. Until we do, they're not going to stop. We have to put the blame squarely on our shoulders."

The art of tackling has eluded the Aggies much of the season. Defensive coordinator

Carl Torbush found one of his team's defensive stats particularly offensive.

"It was amazing how many yards they (Texas Tech) had after the point of contact," Torbush said. "They made well over 200 yards and you have to give them credit for that. But at the same time we've just got to do a better job of tackling."

The Aggies have lost three straight games, their longest losing streak since 1980. Their losses have been to teams with a combined 12-2 record but the Aggies aren't looking back.



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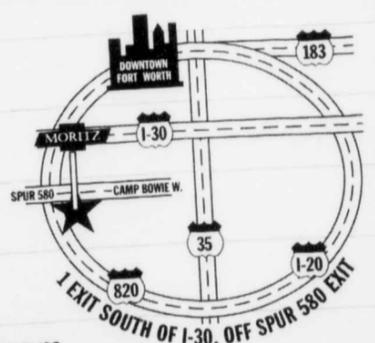
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